

2023

Terrorism Situation



跨部門反恐專責組
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

Global Situation



Online
Incitement



Self-radicalisation



Use of Simple
Weapons



Threat Against
Chinese Interests

The global terrorism situation remained complex and fast-changing, with rising geopolitical tensions driving polarisation in the international arena. Terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaeda took advantage of the hostilities to spread hatred and incite supporters around the world to carry out attacks. In the face of the changing circumstances, some countries had raised the terrorist threat level.

Apart from religious extremism, far-right extremism was among the radical ideologies that had gained ground against the background of increasing violence. In August 2023, a man fatally shot three people inside a store in a predominately African-American neighbourhood in Florida, the US.

With respect to the trend of tactics, radicalised individuals often used simple or self-made weapons to attack specific targets, with a view to drawing attention and achieving political, religious or ideological objectives. In April 2023, a male hurled a pipe-shaped explosive device at Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida. A police officer was slightly wounded.

Overseas Chinese interests continued to be subject to attacks, and the situation was particularly serious in South Asia. In August 2023, armed militants attacked a convoy carrying Chinese engineers near the Gwadar Port in Pakistan, without being able to cause any Chinese casualty.

Local Situation

Although law and order were restored in society, the undercurrent of violence remained a concern. A small number of radicals took to a variety of online and offline channels to incite violent behaviour. In June 2023, following the random stabbing at the Plaza Hollywood, a netizen encouraged more violent acts on his social media page. The sequence of events raised the spectre of copycat attacks.

Moreover, recent cases suggested that local radicals acted in an underground and clandestine manner, and that they retained the intent and capability of acquiring and making lethal weapons. In June 2023, acting on intelligence, police found imitation firearms, knives, etc., from a residential flat in Tsueng Kwan O. In December 2023, police arrested two males in Wong Chuk Hang who were suspected of making explosives and conducting explosive experiments, and seized a large quantity of explosive precursors.



Copycat
Attacks



Underground
and
Clandestine

Conclusion

In sum, the overall terrorist threat level of Hong Kong remains “MODERATE”, meaning that there is the possibility of an attack, but there is no specific intelligence suggesting that Hong Kong is likely to be a target.

Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) will coordinate its member departments as well as different community stakeholders in an effort to strengthen collaborations among all sides in countering terrorism. ICTU will explore innovative platforms to promote the message of “Safe Community” to different sectors of society, including establishing the Safe Community Hub in October 2023, which is the first exhibition and experience centre to operate under the theme of counter terrorism in Hong Kong and serves to let members of the public understand more about their roles in constructing a “Safe Community” in Hong Kong.

'MODERATE'

安全社區
體驗館
Safe Community Hub

見疑即報
Spot and Report

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